

Message Text

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62
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 IGA-01 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RMGIBSON:MGH

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

EA/TB:GBROBERTS (DRAFT)

EA/RA:WGALLAGHER (INFO)

SER/INC:MMCBE (DRAFT)

S/NM:JRAFFERTY

S/NM:DDCOHEN

AID/EA:RTAYLOR (DRAFT)

----- 013682

P 262208Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230408

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT:NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

REFS: (A) RANGOON 2723; (B) STATE 217486; (C) STATE 226569;

AND (D) STATE 174694

1. SUMMARY: WHILE THE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT DISCUSSION OF SPRAY EQUIPMENT MAY BE PREMATURE, WE FEEL THAT TALKS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY SHOULD BEGIN SOON. RUDY HALL HAS THE REQUISITE EXPERTISE ON THE ROLE OF AVIATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND WE CONSIDER HIM TO BE THE LOGICAL PERSON TO CONDUCT THESE DISCUSSIONS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (C), THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WE ASSUME HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE GUB, PRECLUDES THE NEED FOR DISCUSSING A MIX OF HELICOPTER TYPES. SPRAY EQUIPMENT-RELATED TECHNICAL TALKS CAN AWAIT FURTHER GUB

INITIATIVES.

3. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE THAT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TO ESTABLISH A SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE/OVERHAUL CAPABILITY BEGIN AT AN EARLY DATE. EVEN AFTER A DECISION TO ESTABLISH SUCH A CAPABILITY, THERE WILL BE A TIME LAG

OF 30 TO 60 DAYS UNTIL NECESSARY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FULFILLED IN THE DEPARTMENT. WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE HELICOPTERS GROUNDED DUE TO LACK OF SPARES OR BECAUSE THEY WERE CANNIBALIZED TO KEEP OTHERS FLYING. OUR CONCERN ON THIS POINT IS GROWING NOW THAT THE HELICOPTERS ARE OPERATIONAL AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. SINCE FUNDS (\$450,-000) HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND ARE AVAILABLE (SEE REFTEL B), WE THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE NOT TO GO FORWARD.

4. WE THUS FEEL THAT TALKS BETWEEN AVIATION ADVISOR RUDY HALL AND THE GUB WOULD BE USEFUL DURING THE TRIP PROPOSED IN REFTEL (C). HALL WOULD ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A SPARE PARTS CONTRACT WITH HELI-ORIENT OF SINGAPORE, AN AUTHORIZED BELL AIRFRAME DEALER, AND A MAINTENANCE/OVERHAUL CONTRACT WITH TAIPEI'S E-SYSTEMS, AN AUTHORIZED LYCOMING OVERHAUL AGENT. HE WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO COORDINATE WITH THE GUB, PROVIDING NEEDED TECHNICAL ADVICE IN ESTABLISHING THE MECHANICS OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMPANIES. WE HAVE NO ONE BESIDES HALL WITH THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND FOR THIS VERY COMPLEX TASK.

5. WE ARE AWARE OF THE GUB'S PAST RELUCTANCE TO LET HALL INTO BURMA. HOWEVER, AUNG HTAY'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR VANCE RECOUNTED IN REFTEL (D) WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE A CHANGE IN GUB ATTITUDE.

6. UNLESS THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT UNWISE, WE PROPOSE THAT YOU RAISE THE ABOVE POINTS WITH THE GUB AND ONCE AGAIN SUGGEST TECHNICAL TALKS WITH MR. HALL IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEAR FUTURE. THE TALKS COULD ALSO COVER FINAL DETAILS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE F-27 PROCUREMENT. IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO RAISE A HALL VISIT TO BURMA, PERHAPS HE COULD MEET WITH APPROPRIATE BURMESE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY; FOR EXAMPLE BANGKOK OR SINGAPORE. WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, EQUIPMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE230408
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/TB:RMGIBSON:MGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750335-0376
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509106/baaaactd.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SNAR, BM, US
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006